The Chevron Questa Solar Project (Brown-to Green Land Revitalization)

On April 19, 2011, Chevron began the operation of the Chevron Questa Solar Project. The solar project is built near Chevron Mining Inc.'s molybdenum mine in Questa, New Mexico on a portion of the mine's tailings site where tailing materials were left over from mining operations. The Questa project is one of the largest concentrating photovoltaic power (CPV) facilities in the world located on approximately 20 acres, and includes 173 solar trackers, each about 18 by 21 feet in size. Concentrating photovoltaic is an advanced technology that uses lenses or mirrors to concentrate and direct the sun's rays through a multi-layer solar cell. Each cell layer captures solar energy and converts it to electricity. The installation generates one megawatt of electricity that is sold to Kit Carson Electric Cooperative and distributed to homes throughout Questa and other parts of New Mexico. The project provided a boost to the area by adding close to $3-million to the local economy, and an additional $25-million with other contactors in the New Mexico area.

Cleaning Up Our Communities and Pursuance of Responsible Parties

EPA Region 6 had completed the cleanup of four (4) NPL sites and one (1) Alternative Superfund site contributing 23% of the national total: Gulfco Marine, North Cavalcade, Hudson Refining, and Old Esco, and ATSF Albuquerque (LA- Alternative Site). The work at these sites will result in protecting over 14,200 people. The remedial action resulted in approximately 141,500 cubic yards of contaminated soils and source materials being clean up. To date, over 88 million gallons of contaminated ground water has been treated at these sites. This will ensure long term protect to the affected communities and provide for future reuse of the cleaned up sites. In addition to the cleanup activities, the Region selected 10 new remedies, brought two (2) sites with ground water migration under control (ATSF Albuquerque and North Cavalcade), one (1) site with human exposure under control (Old Esco), and approximate seven (7) sites (15,285 acres) were made available for Sitewide Ready for Anticipated Use (SWRAU), contributing 11% of the SWRAU national commitment. The Longhorn AAP accounted for approximately 15,000 acres.

Color Coding Pilot Project – San Jacinto Disposal Pits

As part of the Administrator's focus on "expanding the environmental conversation," each Region is exploring the use of color coded data to communicate environmental messages related to Superfund removal and remedial action sites. Region 6 selected the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site as its pilot project for both the Removal Action (Time Critical) and the ongoing Remedial Investigation. As a national pilot, the Region developed a color coding system to better communicate risk information to the pubic regarding the contamination in the San Jacinto Disposal Pits Superfund study area. A color coding scheme was then developed to assist the public in interpreting the sample results and what risk that level of exposure presents to human health and the environment. This approach is especially useful for sites with dioxin contamination because of the ubiquitous nature of dioxin and the high level of public concern. On September 22, 2011, Region 6 convened a public meeting to discuss the completion of our "removal action" at the site and the status of our remedial investigation. Region 6 presented dioxin data to the public in a more easily understood way using color-coding. Both before and

after the formal meeting, the Region met with interested members of the public around a poster session and solicited feedback concerning the use of the color-coded data approach. Consistently, the feedback indicated that the messages were easy to understand. Public comments noted how the GIS maps made it easy to identify the most contaminated areas and to see how the Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) effectively reduced the public's exposure to those areas.